GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PUBLIC SERVANTS – Registration and Stamps – Surprise check conducted by ACB over the O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram on 04.12.2015 – Allegations of misconduct – Disciplinary action against Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, former Sub Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G.District - Sanction Accorded – Common disciplinary proceedings initiated – Articles of Charge framed – Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.189 **Dated:30-03-2021**

Read the following:-

1. From DG, ACB, VJY, Lr.Rc.No.183/RCO-REG/2015, Dated 10.02.2021.
2. G.O.Ms.No.77, Revenue (Vig-II) Department, dated 30-03-2021.

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O R D E R :

In pursuance of the sanction accorded by the Government under Sub Clause (i) of Clause (b) of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 9 of the Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980 for instituting departmental proceedings against Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, former Sub Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G.District and in continuation of the orders issued under Rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, vide reference 2nd read above, it is considered necessary to hold an inquiry against the said Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, former Sub Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G.District in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of articles of charge (Annexure-I) and the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in support of each article of charge is enclosed (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom the articles of charge are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexures-III and IV).

3. Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, former Sub Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G.District is directed to submit, within ten days of the receipt of this Order, a written statement of his defence.

4. Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, former Sub Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G.District is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charge as are not admitted. She should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, former Sub Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G.District is further informed that if she does not submit his written statement of defence on or before the time specified in para 3 above, or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 or the orders / directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiring Authority may hold the inquiry against him ex-parte.

6. Attention of Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, former Sub Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G.District is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further

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his interests in respect of matters pertaining to her service under Government. If any representation is received on her behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings, it will be presumed that she is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at her instance and action will be taken against her for violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, former Sub Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G.District (Enclosed Annexures I to IV) **through** the Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.(with a request to serve the order on the individual and send the served copy with dated signature to Government).

Copy to:

The Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau, Pandit Nehru Bus Station, NTR Administrative Block, 2nd Floor, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.

The Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Eedupugallu, Vijayawada, Krishna District.

The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada, E.G.District.

SF / SC

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – I

ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT KOTA NAGA VENKATA LAKSHMI, FORMER SUB-REGISTRAR, RAVULAPALEM, E.G.DISTRICT.

Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, W/o Satyanarayana Murthy former Sub-Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G. District was joined in Government Service as Jr. Asst., on 10-09-1986 and worked at Eluru, Nidadavolu, Kovvur, Bhimadole. Later she was promoted as Senior Assistant on 01-08-2003 and worked at Eluru, Nidadavole, Kakinada. Subsequently, she was promoted as Sub-Registrar, Grade-II on 22-05-2010 and worked at Kakinada and Nidadavole. While working as Sub-Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G. District from 10-10-2014 to 04-12-2015 (date of surprise check), she committed grave misconduct in as much as

Charge : She while working as Sub-Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G. District along with other Sub-Registrars used to pay mamools to Sri V. Ranga Reddy, who is their Superior Officer and on 04-12-2015 i.e. the day of review meeting conducted by Sri V.Ranga Reddy, he paid monthly mamool of Rs.,5,000/- to Sri V.Ranga Reddy in his office, to overlook administrative lapses committed by themselves.

Thus, Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, W/o Satyanarayana Murthy while working as Sub-Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G. District by her above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct un-becoming of a Government Servant and thereby contravened Rule 3 (1) & (2) of A.P. Civil Service (Conduct) Rules 1964.

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATION OF MIS-CONDUCT IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT KOTA NAGA VENKATA LAKSHMI, FORMER SUB-REGISTRAR, GRADE-II, RAVULAPALEM, E.G.DISTRICT.

Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, W/o Satyanarayana Murthy former Sub-Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G. District is native of Kulla (V), Pamaru (M), E.G. district. Her date of birth is 30-10-1965. She joined in Government Service as Jr. Asst., on 10-09-1986 and worked at Eluru, Nidadavolu, Kovvur, Bhimadole. Later she was promoted as Senior Assistant on 01-08-2003 and worked at Eluru, Nidadavole, Kakinada. Subsequently, she was promoted as Sub-Registrar, Grade-II on 22-05-2010 and worked at Kakinada and Nidadavole. Later she worked at Sub Registrar Office, Ravulapalem, E.G.dt. from 10-10-2014 to till the date of Surprise Check i.e. 04-12-2015. Her retirement date is 31-10-2025. She is here-in-after referred to as Government Servant. Charge: She while working as sub-Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G. District along with other Sub-Registrars used to pay monthly mamools to Sri V.Ranga Reddy, who is their Superior Officer and on 04.12.2015 i.e. the day of review meeting conducted by V.Ranga Reddy, he paid monthly mamool of Rs.5000/- to Sri V.Ranga Reddy in his office to overlook administrative lapses committed by him.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:

On receipt of reliable information that the District Registrar, Registrations & Stamps Department, Rajamahendravaram is indulging in corrupt practices by way of collecting bribe amounts as mamools from his subordinates i.e Sub-Registrars working under his control, at the time of holding review meeting on 04-12-2015 at his office the Deputy Superintendent of Police, ACB, Rajamahendravaram Range, Rajamahendravaram along with his staff and mediators conducted surprise check on the office premises of District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram on 04-12-2015 from 12.45 hrs to 21.00 hrs. During the said surprise check a total un accounted cash of Rs. 67,000/- was found in the possession of his office and the same was seized.

As there was prima- facie evidence that the Sub-Registrar and his staff are indulging in corruption and after following legal formalities, a case of Criminal misconduct case was registered vide Cr. No. 11/RCO-RJY/2015 under section 7 and 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of the PC Act 1988 on 01-08-2015at 11.00 hours and investigated into.

The investigation revealed that on the date of surprise check i.e. on 04.12.2015 the surprise check party found that Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar and other 15-Sub-Registrars who are working under the control of Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram in the office of the District Registrar along with staff.

During the search, Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar was found in his possession of Rs.32,000/- (consisting of 6 wads) excess amount than he declared in the Personal Cash Register. On further search, 6 covers found in black color rexin bag available in the right side table drawer of the said District Registrar contained wad of currency notes. On verification an amount of Rs.19,000/- in total was found in said 6 covers. The search further yielded that recovery of another 4 wads containing Rs.16,000/- at different places in the office of the said District Registrar. When questioned about possession of unaccounted money of Rs.51,000/- (Rs.32,000 + Rs.19,000) and recovery of Rs.16,000/- from his office premises, the said District Registrar failed to account for the same. Hence, the DSP, ACB, Rajamahendravaram seized an unaccounted money of Rs.67,000/-, black rexin bag lagged as 'Samsonite' and six covers attested the mediators. The DSP also seized relevant records and examined witnesses.

The Investigation further reveals that the Government Servant along with other 15-Sub-Registrars who attended the review meeting are present in the review meeting conducted by V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram at his office on

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04.12.2015 of Rs.67,000/- for ignoring administrative lapses committed by him in maintenance of office records, scanning of records, collection of stamp duty & registration fees during document registrations in their offices as stated below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Sub-Registrar	Mamools paid to the District Registrar.
1	Smt. K. Vijayamani, SRO, Allavaram.	Paid Rs.2,000 duly wrapped in cover and signed.
2	Sri M.V. Ramamohana Rao, In- charge, SRO, Amalapuram.	Paid Rs.5,000/-.
3	Sri Ch. Subrahmanyam, SRO, Ambajipeta.	Paid Rs.5,000/- duly wrapped in a cover and signed.
4	Sri V.Lakshmi Suryanarayana, SRO, Anaparthy.	Paid Rs.3,000/-.
5	Smt A. Saradha Devi, SRO, I.Polavaram.	Paid Rs.3,000/- duly wrapped in a Cover and signed.
6	Sri K.Pullam Raju, SRO, Kadiyam	Paid Rs.5000/-.
7	Sri V. Babu Rao, SRO, Korukonda	Thrown Rs.4,000/- under the table of Jr.Asstt.
8	Sri K. Subbarao, SRO, Kothapeta	Paid Rs.2,000/- duly wrapped in a cover and signed.
9	Sri V.Venkateswara Rao, SRO, Malkipuram.	Thrown Rs.2300/- in the office Premises of District Registrar.
10	Sri P. Radha Krishna, SRO, Mamidikuduru.	Paid Rs.2000/-duly wrapped in a cover and signed.
11	Sri M.V. Jeevan Babu, Joint SRO-1, Rajamahendravaram.	Paid Rs.10,000/-.
12	Smt K.V.Naga Venkata Lakshmi, SRO, Ravulapalem (Government Servant)	Paid Rs.5000/- duly wrapped in a cover and signed.
13	Sri N. Maladri, SRO, Mummidivaram.	Kept Rs.4,700/- in a shelve in the office of District Registrar.
14	Sri K.S.Syamala Prasad, SRO, Razole.	Paid Rs.6,000/-.
15	Sri M.Durga Ravi Shankar, SRO, Seethanagaram.	Paid Rs.3,000/-.
16	Sri J.V.Veera Prasada Rao, SRO, Pidimgoyyi.	Thrown Rs.5,000/- in the office Premises of District Registrar.

During the course of investigation admitted writings and signatures of Government Servant and 5 other Sub-Registrars viz. 1) Sri Ch. Subrahmanyam, SRO, Ambajipeta 2) Sri P.Radha Krishna, I/c Sub-Registrar, Mamidikuduru, 3) Sri K.Subba Rao, I/c Sub-Registrar, Kothapeta, 4) Smt. A.Sarada Devi, SRO I.Polavaram and 5) Smt. K.Vijayamani, Sub-Registrar, Allavaram were collected. The specimen writings and signatures were obtained in the open court. The scientific officer after analyzing the writings on the six covers seized from the possession of Sri Vaka Ranga Reddy, District Registrar at the time of surprise in which the unaccounted amount was found, has opined that the writings on the 6 covers tallied with that of admitted, specimen writings as well as signatures of Government servant and the said 5-SROs.

On examination, Smt. Kata Venkata Naga Venkata Lakshmi, W/o Prabhakar, Sub-Registrar, Ravulapalem, East Godavari District stated that she has been working as SRO, Ravulapalem since 01-10-2014. As per the instructions issued vide Circular memo No. G1/1162/2014, dated 2-12-2015 of District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, she attended review meeting on 04.12.2015 at about 10.30 am conducted by District Registrar Sri V.Rangareddy at his office at Rajamahendravaram. The meeting was held between 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. After completion of meeting though she was not willing to pay any mamools, she has paid Rs.5,000/- wrapped in a cover towards monthly mamools to the District Registrar to avoid administrative inconvenience.

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Later while she was waiting in the staff room of the District Registrar office ACB officials raided the District Registrar office. She identified her signature on the cover, which was found in the black colored Rexene bag of District Registrar etc., facts.

As per the statements of witnesses who were examined during the course of investigation U/s 161 Cr.P.C. and at the time of Surprise check, it is revealed that the Sub-Registrars used to pay the amounts to the District Registrar every month at the time of conducting review meeting for avoiding administrative lapses committed by themselves in the Sub-Registrar offices. As well as, on 4.12.2015, Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram conducted review meeting with Sub-Registrars who are working under his control in his office. After the meeting, some Sub-Registrars were met Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar at his chamber to give monthly mamools and some are waiting at outside the chamber of V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar to give monthly mamools and it is on record.

As per the statements of the Government Servant and 15 other Sub-registers who were examined during the course of investigation U/s 161 Cr.P.C and at the time of Surprise Check, it is revealed that the Sub-Registrars were given monthly mamools to Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar ever month for avoiding administrative lapses committed them in their Sub-Registrar offices. As well as, on 4.12.2015, after review meeting conducted by Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar with them at his office, some of them were met the Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar at his chamber and gave monthly mamools to V. Ranga Raddy and some are waiting at outside the chamber of Sri V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar to give monthly mamools and it is on record.

The investigation revealed that Government Servant, while working as Sub-Registrar, Ambajipeta, E.G.District along with other Sub-Registrars used to pay monthly mamools to V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram to overlook administrative lapses committed by them on 04.12.2015 also he attended and paid such monthly mamool of Rs.2,000/- to V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram who is the Superior Officer to pay illegal gratification by paying monthly mamools to V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar at his office on 04-12-2015 .

Hence, it is evident that Government Servant, while working as Sub-Registrar, Ravulapalem, E.G. District from 10-10-2014 to till the date of surprise check i.e., 04-12-2015, she committed grave misconduct that she along with other Sub-Registrars have abetted the V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram who is their Superior Officer to take illegal gratification by paying monthly mamools at the time of review meeting conducted by V. Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram at his office on 04-12-2015 for avoiding administrative lapses committed by themselves.

Thus, Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, W/o Satyanarayana Murthy while working as Sub-Registrar, Grade-II, Ravulapalem, E.G. District by her above mentioned acts has exhibited and lack of devotion to her duties and conducted unbecoming of Government servant and thereby contravened Rule 3 (1) & (2) Of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

The Government Servant has therefore, rendered herself liable for regular departmental action for major penalty.

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF DOCUMETNS IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT KOTA NAGA VENKATA LAKSHMI, FORMER SUB-REGISTRAR,GRADE-II, RAVULAPALEM, E.G.DISTRICT

1	Surprise Check Proceedings, dt. 04.12.2015.
2	FIR No.11/RCO-RJY/2015 of ACB, Rajamahendravaram Range along with occurrence report.
3	Memo.No.G1/1162/2015, dated: 02-12-2015 of the O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram.
4	Attendance sheet dt.4-12-2015.
5	Rough sketch of scene of offence i.e O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram.
6	Signed Statement of Smt., Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, SRO, Ravulapalem obtained during the Surprise Check.
7	Statements of following witnesses recorded u/s 161 Cr.P.C. : 1. Ch.Punya Syam Sudheer, S/o Ch.Prasada Rao. 2. Isukapalli Harerama Krishnaprasad S/o (late) Chittibbai. 3. Parvathina Ajay Srinivas S/o (late) Surya Bhaskara Rao. 4. Smt.Sana Satya Venkata Lakshmi, W/o (late) Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Murthy. 5. Smt. Motupalli Venkata Padmavathi, W/o (late) Siva Surya Prasadarao. 6. Sri Konala Srinivasa Reddy, S/o (late) Venkata Reddy. 7. Kum Vadlapati Pooja Latha, D/o V.Ramesh Babu.
8	Statement of Smt. Kota Naga Venkata Lakshmi, SRO, Ravulapalem recorded u/s 161 Cr.P.C.
9	Letter of Advice, dt. 18.1.2017.
10	Forwarding letters of Hon'ble Spl.Court for SPE & ACB Cases cum III Addl. District Court, Vijayawada, dt. .05.2017 and 06.06.2017 sent to FSL, Hyderabad pertaining to Specimen signatures and hand writings in Crime No.11/RCO-ACB,RJY/2015 of ACB, Rajamahendravaram Range.
11	Hand writing expert opinion obtained from FSL, Hyderabad vide T.S.FSL.no. DDP/4/2017, dt.21-07-2017
12	Letter vide No. E1/1101/2015, dt. 14.12.2015 of Deputy Inspector General of Registration and Stamps, Kakinada.

LIST OF MO'S

1. Unaccounted Amount Rs. 67,000/- (which was deposited as Term Deposit for 3 years in State Bank of India, Kambalcheruvu, Rajamahendravaram vide . Account No. 38271223197 by the direction of Hon'ble SPI.Court for ACB, Rajamahendravaram.
2. Black colour Rexene bag labled as **"Samsonite".**
3. Six paper covers.

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF WITNESSESS IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT KOTA NAGA VENKATA LAKSHMI,FORMER SUB-REGISTRAR, GRADE-II, RAVULAPALEM, E.G.DISTRICT.

Sl. No	Name of the witnesses
1	Sri Ch.Punya Syam Sudheer, S/o Ch.Prasada Rao, Engineer in the O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram on behalf of TLS company R/o D.No.14-160, Sri Kameswara Apartments Dowleswaram, Rajamahendravaram Rural, .E.G. district.
2	Sri Isukapalli Harerama Krishnaprasad, S/o (late) Chittibbai, Superintendent, O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No.23-12-5/B, Sriramanagar, Rajamahendravaram.
3	Sri Parvathina Ajay Srinivas, S/o (late) Surya Bhaskara Rao, Jr.Asst. O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No.73-14-5/1, Godthi Residency, A.V.Apparao Road, Rajahmundry, E.G.district.
4	Smt.Sana Satya Venkata Lakshmi, W/o (late) Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Murthy, Jr.Asst., O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No.4-14, Rajanagaram, E.G.district.
5	Smt. Motupalli Venkata Padmavathi, W/o (late) Siva Surya Prasadarao, Jr.Asst., O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No. 5-9-58/1, Kummari Street, Peddapuram, E.G.district.
6	Sri Konala Srinivasa Reddy, S/o (late) Venkata Reddy, Sr. Asst, O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No. 81-46-1, near A.K.C College, Venkateswara nagar, Rajamahendravaram.
7	Kum Vadlapati Pooja Latha, D/o V.Ramesh Babu, Working as Junior Asst. 0/o Sub-Registrar, Rajamahendravaram , R/o D.No. 11-2-8, Flat.No. D-3, Pearls Nights, Seshasai street, Ramarao peta, Kakinada
8	The Deputy Inspector General of Registration and Stamps, Kakinada, East Godavari District.
9	Sri Tanniru Trinadha Ramarao, S/o Brahmandam, Age: 56 yrs., Asst.Executive Engineer, R&B, Town Buildings Section, Rajamahendravaram, R/o. D.No.14-133/10, near Reliance Petrol Bunk, V.L.Puram, Rajamahendravaram, E.G. District.
10	Sri Mandapati Praveen, S/o Musalayya, Age: 22yrs, Jr.Asst. O/o Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No.55-9-15, R&B Staff colony, Opp. Central Jail, Rajamahendravaram, E.G. District.
11	Sri B. Rajasekhara Rao, District Inspector, A.C.B, Rajamahendravaram Range.
12	Sri M. Sudhakara Rao, Dy.Supdt. of Police A.C.B., Rajamahendravaram Range, Rajamahendravaram.
13	Sri P. Ramachandra Rao, Dy.Superintendent of Police, A.C.B., Rajamahendravaram Range, Rajamahendravaram.
14	Any other witness.

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER